

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

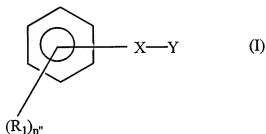
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1-25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A cleaning solution ~~comprising~~ consisting of, based on the total weight of the solution:

- more than 50% by weight of at least one lactone (component A);
- 1 to 10% by weight of at least one surfactant compound (component B) having a HLB ranging from 8 to 15 and selected from the group consisting of compounds of formula:



wherein:

R_1 denotes a hydrocarbon group comprising from 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

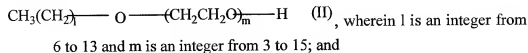
n'' is an integer from 1 to 5,

X denotes a valence link, -O-, -OCH₂, C=O or (CH₂)_k, k being an integer varying from 1 to 2;

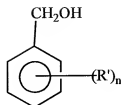
Y denotes (RO)_jH wherein j is an integer ranging from 2 to 40, and

R is a divalent hydrocarbon group,

and compounds of formula:



- at least another component selected from:
a component C of formula:



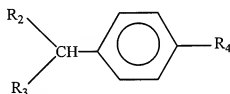
wherein:

n denotes an integer from 0 to 5, and

R' is an alkyl group or an alkoxy group $-\text{[O-Z]}_n-\text{H}$ in which Z is a

divalent alkyl group and n' is an integer from 0 to 10, and

a component D, ~~being at least one additional compound having the~~ of formula:



wherein:

R_2 and R_3 , being identical or different, are alkyl groups having from 1 to

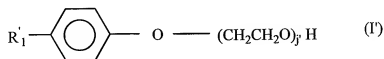
4 carbon atoms, and

R_4 is H or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

27. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, at least 60% by weight of the at least one lactone.
28. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 27, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, at least 70% by weight of the at least one lactone.

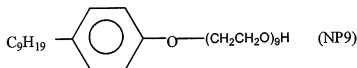
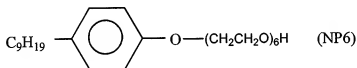
29. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 28, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, at least 80% by weight of the at least one lactone.
30. (cancelled)
31. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein n is 0 or 1.
32. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein R' is an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.
33. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, from 0.1 to 20% by weight of component C.
34. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, from 2 to 10% by weight of component C.
35. (cancelled)
36. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein component C is benzyl alcohol.
37. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the hydrocarbon group R₁ comprises from 5 to 15 carbon atoms.
38. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the hydrocarbon group R₁ comprises from 7 to 15 carbon atoms.
39. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein n" equals 1.
40. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein j is an integer from 2 to 20.
41. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein j is an integer from 4 to 15.
42. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein j is an integer from 6 to 12.

43. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the divalent hydrocarbon group R has 2 carbon atoms.
44. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the at least one surfactant (component B) has the formula:



wherein R'₁ is a C₅-C₁₀ alkyl moiety and j' is an integer from 5 to 10.

45. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 44, wherein the at least one surfactant comprises:



or a mixture thereof.

46. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the lactone is a 4 to 6-membered cyclic ester having an ester functional group -C(O)-O- in its ring or a derivative thereof.
47. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 46, wherein the at least one lactone is further defined as α-angelicalactone, β-propiolactone, γ-butyrolactone, γ-caprylolactone, γ-lauro lactone, γ-palmitolactone, γ-stearolactone, γ-croto lactone, γ-valerolactone, δ-valerolactone, γ-caprolactone, δ-caprolactone, or γ-gluconolactone.
48. (cancelled)

49. (currently amended) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein ~~the additional compound~~ component D comprises up to 10% by weight of the cleaning solution.
50. (currently amended) The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein ~~the additional compound~~ component D comprises up to 8% by weight of the cleaning solution.
51. (cancelled)
52. (previously presented) The cleaning solution of claim 26, further defined as having a pH from 4 to 7.
53. (previously presented) A process for cleaning an item soiled by organic materials, comprising dipping the soiled item into the cleaning solution of claim 26.
54. (previously presented) The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the cleaning solution is at a temperature ranging from 40 to 80°C at the time of dipping.
55. (previously presented) The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the dipping time is 5 minutes or less.
56. (previously presented) The cleaning process of claim 53, further comprising, after the dipping step of the soiled item into the cleaning solution, dipping the item into a basic aqueous solution comprising from 1 to 10% by weight of potassium hydroxide based on the total weight of the aqueous solution.
57. (previously presented) The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the item is soiled by a thermosetting material.
58. (previously presented) The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the item is made of mineral glass.
59. (previously presented) The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the item is a mold for optical lenses.
60. (previously presented) The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the item is a mold for ophthalmic lenses.
61. (previously presented) The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the item has a progressive geometry surface.

Appl. No. 10/599,946
Response to Office Action
Mailed March 20, 2009

62. (cancelled)